

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

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inside

yours to keep!

CHRISTMAS  
BONUS

FREE 1979  
Calendar

*Hackney conference calls for change in law*

## THE SCANDAL OF 'SUS'

'Sus', the offence of being a suspected person, is a law which is widely used against young people in Hackney. The police claim that it is important in the prevention of crime, but others say that it is outdated and used just as an excuse to intimidate young people, especially blacks. In 1977, 60% of arrests on 'sus' in Hackney were of black people - while the population is only 11% black.

The Hackney Council for Racial Equality, and other local groups, have been so concerned at the systematic harassment of young black people that they called a conference on Saturday, 4 November to discuss the Law and Race Relations in Hackney. Among the groups and individuals attending were representatives from Hackney Committee against Racism, Hackney and Tower Hamlets Defence Committee, Hackney Trades Council and Hackney Legal Action Group.

The law on 'Sus' is actually Section 4 of the Vagrancy Act, 1824, under which it is a criminal offence in itself to be a "suspected person loitering with intent to commit a felonious offence".

Most of those arrested on 'Sus' are claimed to be under suspicion of loitering with intent to commit some kind 'street theft' involving cars or pickpocketing. Usually there are no independent witnesses and two policemen simply tell the magistrate that they had seen the accused, on at least two separate occasions (which need only be minutes apart), 'behaving suspiciously', say in the vicinity of some parked cars or in a crowded shopping area. In the absence of any independent witnesses it therefore becomes a question of the magistrate choosing to believe either the police or the accused.

A typical case, which occurred in Hackney, concerned a young West Indian who wanted to buy himself a new coat. In the morning he went to the Post Office and drew out £30 from his savings. With a few friends who went to the same college as he did, he set off to see what the various Hackney shops had to offer in his price range.

The movement of this group

between the shops was sufficient to prompt the police to arrest them for 'Sus'. They were all convicted and thus, for the first time in their lives, earned themselves a place on the criminal records.

This law does result in racism. Because nearly all policeman are white and they expect people to behave 'normally', in the way they themselves would behave, so that when they see black kids out late on the street at night or in large groups they find this "suspicious".

In Hackney, Wandsworth and Lambeth the percentage of blacks arrested for 'Sus' varies between 60% and 73%. Police commanders in those boroughs might care to explain why their figures are so high and discuss them with the Commander of N Division, which covers Islington, where only 12% of those arrested for 'Sus' last year were black. The vast difference in these figures shows the wide discretion that the police have in implementing this law.

If the accusation that the police use of 'Sus' laws is racist is wrong, then there should be some relation between the number of blacks charged with theft and related offences and the number of blacks charged with 'Sus'. No such similarity exists. In 1975 only 11% of those charged with theft and handling stolen goods in the Metropolitan Police Area were black. Therefore what is clearly happening is that the 'Sus' laws are being used as a method of social control particularly against blacks.

In 1976 a working party set up by the Home Secretary reported that the Vagrancy Act ought to be scrapped. Nothing has happened at all since then.

The Conference also discussed the Immigration Act, and John Plummer from the

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said that in Pentonville Prison there were 150 people detained under the immigration Act. These people had been detained without being charged, without a trial, without a conviction and without a sentence. A typical case of how this law is applied in Hackney is the case of Mr. and Mrs. O. One Sunday morning Mrs. O visited a friend to have her hair done. While she was away Hackney police called at their home and arrested Mr. O who

they said had entered the country illegally three years ago. They took him away and their two year old child. When Mrs. O came back she heard that the police were also looking for her and she went to stay with friends until she could obtain some advice. On Monday Mr. O was taken to Pentonville while the baby was taken into care, with the police refusing to tell Mr. O where the baby was being taken.

Mrs. O eventually went to the J.C.W.I. for advice, and when they phoned the

Home Office they said that Mrs. O was prepared to come for interview, but that she would like to look after the child at home. Even though Mr. O was in prison, the authorities insisted on detaining her too and she was sent to Harmsworth Detention Centre. The next day she and the baby were released as a result

continued on p.8.



## NO XMAS CHEER FOR HOLLY STREET

The long-suffering residents of Holly Street Estate, Dalston, have had enough of the appalling conditions in the "modern" flats Hackney Council have provided them with. This was the undisputable verdict from a deputation of tenants who took their protest to Hackney Council at their meeting in the Town Hall on 22 November.

Unfortunately, the tenants' elected spokesperson was unable to attend the Council Meeting, having been shot at on the notorious estate. Nevertheless, the group went ahead, presenting a petition and their protest. They reported that there are over 200 outstanding repairs to be done on the Estate by the Council, many over a year old. Among the specific complaints about Holly Street were:

1. The poor state of the

floor in the corridors, where there are many holes in the floor covering

2. The presence of Red Pharaoh ants in flats, now immune to many insecticides and are thus increasing  
3. The presence of cockroaches  
4. The presence of mice  
5. The all-the-year-round payment of heating, even in summer  
6. The lack of fire escapes  
7. The general bad design of the Estate, contributing to over 20 break-ins in October in two corridors alone.

To help combat these problems the tenants called for the return of residential caretakers. (This has been advocated, but not introduced, by the Council). They could keep refuse chutes unblocked, reduce muggings

and help keep the Estate clean. The residents called for action now from the Council, as is their right as ratepayers.

Councillor Gerry Ross proposed cutting off blocks from each other to prevent people roaming from block to block. However, the Council's reply was largely one of an entrenched and bureaucratic organisation - that various sub-committees of the Council were aware of the problems and are considering what to do. The single Tory opposition Councillor - Lobenstein - won support from tenants in the public gallery but one was left wondering if it made any difference who was in power.

Tory or Labour Council, the tenants of Holly Street Estate have a major battle on their hands in trying to get their housing conditions improved.



# letters

## Hot air & no socialism

Dear HPP

Your "long report on the Labour Party and the new look of the (Hackney) Council" (October HPP) in November's edition was a disaster.

Your report: "Hackney Council - all hot air and fine socialist rhetoric" (page 2) simply could not decide whether:

- Labour's "Socialist Manifesto" is/was a "good" or "bad" thing. You mentioned, firstly, the "Leader's panel" of 17 October where the three-year programme was accepted in principle and then went on to suggest that even if all its plans were actually implemented, it would amount to little: "implementation... would obviously be of some advantage to ordinary people".
- The "Broad Left" on Hackney Council is/was capable of doing anything: it was "emasculated", "patronised", suffered from "hotheads" and "tactical errors" and was, finally, "impotent".

Quite honestly, your comments displayed a morose pedestrianism towards the fight for socialist measures in Hackney. All your comments, culled from the "inside" have an element of truth. So what do you suggest is done?

The "Left" should have taken the offer of Committee Chairpersonships, specifically, Social Services; no election, no accountability and most important of course, no reasonable likelihood of socialist majorities on these committees. The "Left" absolutely correctly refused to be involved in this charade, Cllr Sweeney was right to refuse such patronage, smacking of careerism and personal advance over socialist aims. Yet your report attacks him and others for their principled decisions. Do you really know what is going on?

"The Left is stuck in the impotent position of fighting all its battles knowing that it will have to compromise, if it is to get support." Well, there are tactics and tactics.

Your only suggestion is that the Left must get the support of officers, especially Dennis Woods, Chief Executive. Well, good luck to them. But is it not a little short-sighted?

What about campaigning amongst the working class of Hackney? - exposing the financial rackets that go on, the massive debt burden of this and most other inner city Labour councils: the stupid laws which prevent decent public services being provided for all, in competition with the private profiteers which rip off all of us every day in Hackney. Why not try to explain the facts to trade unionists and tenants about housing and planning foul-ups like the mess that exists in Hoxton/Shoreditch and Stoke Newington?

Concern about the physical environment is high amongst Labour and socialist opinion in this borough. But wait!

Another socialist councillor is criticised concerning

the dangers caused by uncontrolled dogs, both in the streets and open spaces. This, an issue which has wide popular support, and ties in comfortably with the range of health and environmental aspects of concern to most of us - lorries, traffic, dereliction, waste disposal and the need for more land use planning, including tree planting etc.

Hackney People's Press has always had an ambivalent attitude to Labour politics - and probably rightly so. But look at your sister paper - the Islington Gutter Press. It has taken politics seriously. It has understood that Labour is the dominant political force in its area, on the Council, in Parliament, in every other local organisation. It has carried regular and well-informed reports on what is happening in Islington - its "HackBencher" column is readable, serious and committed. It spent pages analysing the Borough election and their results - giving them the credibility they deserve; exposing the direct Labour scandals, savagely critical of the "Labour Old Guard", critical in its support of the "new Left", both in the Labour Party and on Islington Council. Quite the opposite to your record in Hackney.

The fight for a socialist strategy in Hackney has revolutionary implications - if taken seriously. It means a challenge to bureaucracy, the State and the city.

The Left both in the Labour Party and in the socialist movement as a whole has yet to live up to the challenge.

Is the "free press" of Hackney able to rise to this challenge?

Mark Douglas

Agent, North Hackney Labour Party, Liaison Delegate to Hackney Labour Group

## HPP replies

We are glad to see that - at last - one of our articles has provoked some dialogue with our readers. Some of the criticisms levelled at us by North Hackney Labour Party are quite fair: with others we must disagree. In replying now, we hope that our original points will be clarified.

It's quite wrong to say that we cannot decide whether the Labour manifesto is "good" or "bad". We have said several times since the election that the commitment to the manifesto means the chance of implementing change in the borough. (See our front page article last June if you don't believe us!) Our view is, however, that it would be a qualified improvement.

There is no chance of real change until the whole apparatus of council bureaucracy and structure can be overcome. And this would require a radical revision of Council methods which, in the opinion of some of the HPP collective, at least, a Labour Council (even if Left-controlled) is unlikely to undertake. Where is the commitment towards real participation, for instance? A chance for the people of Hackney (not all of whom belong to the Labour Party) to make decisions about their own lives themselves. What

about trying to set up neighbourhood councils? What about abolishing Council secrecy? What about opening up the Labour group so that we can see the divisions inside it?

We are not saying that Broad Left councillors and their supporters in the Labour Party would not want to bring in such radical measures. But the Left has shown itself out-manoeuvred time and time again by the right-wing old guard. These devious political operators have no qualms - as they showed at the November Council meeting. There they managed to get a dozen questions effectively wiped from the agenda by refusing to support a motion to allow question time to go on beyond half an hour. Thus embarrassing questions, including one about the Chairperson of Housing Management Committee's reluctance to re-introduce resident caretakers, were not discussed.



However, there are good signs. The complacency of the old guard's front bench is obviously being shaken. This is why they resort to "patronising" the Left. The reference to the banning of dogs on public places - which was understood by the councillor mentioned - has been misunderstood by Mark Douglas. What is appalling to the outside observer is the way in which Catherine Hoey is taunted when she tries to make a serious comment.

Mark Douglas also criticises us for saying that it might have been better for some of the Broad Left councillors to accept the chairpersonships of various committees. In principle, they might well have been right not to accept the patronage handed down by the leadership. But might not more dynamic chairing of some of the committees be of advantage to the Left - and to the services controlled by the committees? We think that they must agree that that is so.

Finally, we are taken to task for not taking politics seriously, unlike our equivalent in the neighbouring borough. The HPP collective has always admired the Islington Gutter Press which is a fine, crusading, investigative newspaper. But they have better resources than us - and better sources too. Their "HackBencher" column, compiled by various "Deep Throats" in the Labour group, is certainly a great asset to their paper. But is it of more than passing interest to those people not particularly involved in internal Labour Party politicking? Probably not, although it is an undoubted thorn in the side of the equivalent Islington old guard. Ideally, of course, there should be no need for such a column. As we have already said, secrecy is one

way in which the public are alienated from "their" council.

We believe that we are laying the foundation for a bigger and better newspaper which might act as a focus for social change in Hackney, which is what we ultimately believe in. We know we are nowhere near that goal yet. What we need is the support of all Hackney's dedicated socialists and community activists - as sources, as writers, as artists, as salespeople - to help us.

Perhaps this comradesly exchange of views will bring us all a step nearer to achieving that end.

## Blatant sexism?

Dear HPP

Healthy criticism never did any harm, particularly if done in a comradesly spirit. Therefore, despite promises from members of the collective that this letter will never be published, I'm going to criticise. On the back page of the November issue is an excellent article on the Hackney Girls Project. It advertises the 22 Nov. workshop on women in Manual Trades and rightly points out the problems facing girls in the borough. But, look at the front page. There on the top right hand corner is a cartoon of a heavily tattooed, handkerchief topped man in a vest - the implication being 'a manual worker'. Added to this he is saying what's inside the issue and finishes with "give me the SUN any day". HPP should know that women will always be oppressed under the class system. HPP should also know that by reinforcing images, of both men and women, they are



Flashback to last month's controversial graphic

seriously holding back the struggle to change both men's and women's positions in society. References to the Sun, with its disgusting page 3, should never be seen in a community, socialist (?) newspaper. Come on HPP. Print this letter and take a more rounded look at what you are doing and if you have blatant sexism in your group do something about them.

Fraternally,

Candy Atherton.

# FERTILITY CONTROL DAY

As we live in an area where people from all over the world are living together, the Hackney Abortion Campaign thought that a festival involving people with different cultural backgrounds and of different nationalities would be a way of marking International Abortion Day, in March 1979, that would be relevant to the people of Hackney.

We understand that fertility control is a very personal issue; but it is a political issue too. It raises questions of women's roles, issues of population control as a tool of oppression against women and against black people in general (black, Asian, immigrant) - forced sterilisation in Britain, experiments with contraceptive drugs on women in poor countries.

Hackney Abortion Campaign wants to join with other Hackney groups to plan a one-day event around the theme of fertility control. We want to explore our feelings about this through plays, poetry, dance, exhibitions, art work, music, discussion, film.

But we really want the groups who will be participating to organise and design the day. If you are interested, we would like to come and talk with you. Then, on 7 December, at the Family Centre on Rectory Road, N16, at 7.30 pm we would like for all interested people to get together.

Please contact Sarah or Brad tel 249 3768, or write to the Hackney Abortion Campaign, 20 Parkholme Road, E8.

Don't forget, all women are invited to an Abortion Campaign benefit party at Centerprise, at 8 pm on Saturday 2 December.

## NEW EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Council has recently set up a working party to determine the structure of a new Education Advisory Committee. Although all education in Hackney is controlled by ILEA, a number of boroughs have recently set up these committees, to improve liaison between the borough and ILEA, and to campaign for the borough's full entitlement from ILEA.

The problems of education in Hackney - and elsewhere - are acute: falling school rolls, lack of adult education and youth facilities, even the problem of school swimming pools being locked over the summer holidays. It is hoped that this new committee will begin to resolve some of these.

Anthony Kendall, who proposed the idea of this committee to the Council stressed that he was not proposing any rundown of the strength of ILEA. The Tory GLC were in favour of that, but he saw this new committee as increasing the say that the people of Hackney have in the running of their education facilities. The Council only had one representative on ILEA, so this was the chance to get more involved in the planning of education policies - and to implement socialist ideas.



## GIRLS' PROJECT SUCCESS

Hackney Girls Project November events have received a fantastic response with an average evening attendance of over 40 girls during the three-week programme.

The project was set up by local women to give girls a chance to come together, try out new ideas and say what provisions they would like to see in Hackney for girls' activities.

### TWO PLAYS

The programmes got off to a great start with two plays coming from girls' schools in Haringay and Brixton. They were both based on real experiences on sex discrimination - one in school, the other in a youth club. For both plays, this was the first public performance and they went down extremely well both with all the girls in the audience and with some local teachers who are trying to get the plays booked in their schools.

Inspired by these efforts, Women in Manual Trades went away planning a short song and dance sketch to illustrate some of the problems



women face when choosing a career in the manual trades. This sketch turned out to be very funny indeed and made a good introduction to their evening on practical workshops by relaxing the audience who then went on to become involved in six practical workshops ranging from plumbing and electricity to silk screening and video.

Everyone present learned at least one new skill including the organisers and Centerprise received a new set of shelves built by the girls in the carpentry workshop.

On other evenings, Hackney Women's Health Group led a relaxed and informed discussion on different aspects of women's health and Hackney Music Workshop got the whole audience singing along with some popular songs. Both groups made extremely valuable contributions to the events.

Hackney Girls Project would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the project; the support received has been very encouraging.

Throughout the programme, questionnaires were completed by girls in the project, giving details of the type of event and activity they would like to become involved in. Now the initial three-week programme has ended, a follow-up meeting has been arranged for all girls on Thursday 30 November, at 7.30 pm at Centerprise to discuss ideas and possibilities for future events.

Anyone who is interested but can't make this meeting should contact Hackney Girls Project, Box 3, 136 Kingsland High St, E8, tel 254 3082.

## ABC SCORE MORAL VICTORY

Two Hackney journalists and an ex-soldier from Tottenham stepped free from the dock at the Old Bailey at the end of November in a blaze of publicity.

Crispin Aubrey, a reporter on "Time Out" magazine and one of the founders of Hackney People's Press, and Duncan Campbell, now on the staff of the New Statesman, received conditional discharges after being found guilty under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. John Berry, now a social worker and who once was a corporal in the Intelligence Corps, was sentenced to a six-month sentence after the same verdict.

Obviously, the lightness of the sentences was a reflection that the charges should never have been brought in the first place.

For nearly 18 months, all three men had the threat of 14 year jail sentences over their heads, as they faced Section 1 (the spying clause) secrets charges. And all this for merely having a conversation on the night they were arrested!

The Section 1 charges were dropped in the course of the

trial and by the end, some seven weeks later, the Section 2 charges, and the prosecution, had been made to look more and more stupid.

There is no doubt that the outcome of the trial is a victory for the defence. The prosecution started with nine charges and much talk about threats to "national security". They ended with minimal convictions on the three weakest charges. And a small corner of the curtain which hides what John Berry called the "state within a state" was lifted.

"No one can classify my mind" John Berry said in his statement from the dock. Other people who have worked in government service and who think that the public has the right to know what is being done in their name will be heartened at the result.

The ABC trial has opened up the whole area of state secrecy as a subject for debate. It is a tribute to the three defendants that they stood up to intense pressure for so long, and lit the fuse for what should be a most important campaign: the fight for the right to know.

## Community Housing

Last week two applications were submitted for partnership funding which, if approved, could significantly improve the Housing Service in the borough.

The largest of the two bids is made by Hackney Community Housing - a recently-formed body of local people who have been involved for some time with the Hackney Housing Action Group. HCH has also been in close contact with the Housing Emergency Office, who have considerable experience in helping get short-life groups started and can claim a number of success stories.

This project "aims to complement the Housing Service by providing accommodation for local single people and childless couples and others in housing need. This will be done by rehabilitating empty property which will normally be awaiting demolition or major improvement work". In a very thorough background paper that was submitted with the application the Group present a strong justification for the funding to be approved. The Chief Environmental Health Officer has said of empty property that "most of the closed (empty) properties are vandalised and become derelict. They cause a serious nuisance to the inhabitants of the surrounding area. Such sites are used as dumping grounds for rubbish, and generally become rat-infested, which leads to further complaints..."

Hackney Community Housing believe that it is only through a flexible short-life housing scheme that these problems can be countered. They also accept that in the long term short-life housing is

not an ideal form of housing for anyone - a view that is certainly consistent with the Labour manifesto for Hackney and the opinions of housing experts.

### THE SCHEME IN DETAIL

Hackney Community Housing will use empty property owned by the Council, the GLC, housing associations and other public bodies. The properties will be handed over under licence and HCH will undertake to pay the rates and put the dwellings into reasonable condition. Rents will be charged by HCH and the funds used to enable the Housing Scheme to expand. A particularly interesting side to the scheme is that the scheme will be run co-operatively by the tenants. They in turn will elect a management committee who will co-opt representatives from other organisations, e.g. others experienced in short-life housing and professional lawyers and auditors. The scheme will largely rely on self-help labour, but part of the application for funds is to employ a full-time plumber and electrician who may in turn supervise some workers employed with funding from the Manpower Services Commission. It is estimated that with funding, Hackney Community Housing should be capable of taking on 40-50 houses in the first year, thus housing around 150 people. A similar scheme in Islington now has some 500 tenants!

A project like Hackney Community Housing can start, albeit very slowly, without funds. By the time this issue of HPP is printed it will have been decided at the Housing Development Committee meeting

of 27 November whether official recognition will be made of HCH. We understand that this will be unopposed, and HCH might well take over its first two houses in a few weeks' time. This is a small but very important step in ridding us of the blight of empty properties on the Borough.

At the same time as Hackney Community Housing were making their application, the Hackney Housing Action Group itself submitted an application to set up a Housing Resources Centre in the Borough, most probably in Stoke Newington.

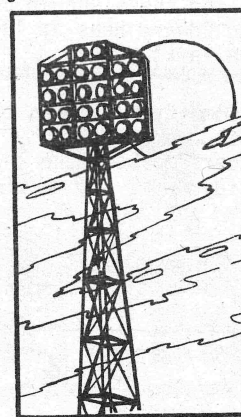
### HOUSING RESOURCES CENTRE.

Whilst Hackney Community Housing may be able to begin without funds, urban aid will be needed for the Housing Resources Centre for it will have little chance of alternative funds. Basically the project will consist of a drop-in centre providing self-help housing resources to those in housing need. The Centre will undertake research into specific housing need, developments in privately-rented accommodation. This would directly and indirectly assist the improvement of the housing service in Hackney. Additional personal resources will be brought into housing through self-help by involving local groups in the research work, and by providing groups of individuals in housing need with the resources and advice that would assist self-help projects to start up.

Particular emphasis will be placed on discovering the housing needs and problems of ethnic minorities by employing a full time worker who would also be able to work with existing Hackney organisations in the Borough to assist self-help solutions.

## SPORTS COUNCIL

Hackney Sports Council was set up at a public meeting in November. The meeting appointed officers, and they are now in the process of setting up an executive, representing the various sports which take place in the borough.



The next meeting is in January, and if you're interested please contact the Chairperson, Barry Huxley, c/o Haggerston Youth Centre, Dunloe Street, E2.

The applications are in a large part the results of research done by the Housing Action Group in the last year. Now that they have been submitted the Group will be meeting to discuss what its next priorities are. One desire of the members is to form links with the tenants and residents associations in the Borough, and there are certainly a number of issues in housing which need taking up. The next meeting of the group is on Thursday, Dec 7th at 6pm in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street. Anyone interested in Hackney Community Housing or the Housing action group can contact them at Box 6 in Centerprise.

## PANTO TIME

"The Thief of Ragbag" is this year's Free Form pantomime at Chats Palace. Especially for the occasion, Chats will be converted into a lavish and spectacular eastern pleasure dome complete with belly dancers, snake charmers and the chance to sample an array of exotic delicacies - not to mention lots of food and a licenced bar.

As you wine and dine in these sumptuous surroundings you will be entertained and amazed by the story of Teeleef - the Thief of Ragbag...

Will he win his battle against the evil King of the Underworld to restore happiness to the court of his master, King Muhammed the Miserable, the saddest Sultan in the East?

"The Thief of Ragbag" is not just a show - it's a whole night out, a day trip to the exotic East which guarantees laughs, thrills and a good time for young and old alike.

Advance ticket sales: 10 am-6 pm, tel 249 3394 or call into Chats Palace between 6 and 7 pm from 27 November.

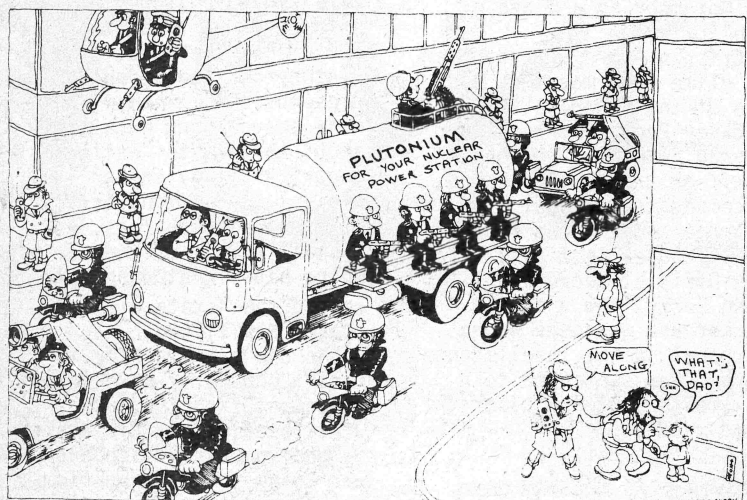
Chats is at 42 Brooksby's Walk, E9.

## Hackney Youth Committee

At its November meeting, members of Hackney Youth Committee voted unanimously to report the Inner London Education Authority that they saw no reason why the London Gay Teenage Group, based in Islington, should not be registered as a youth group. Also, if a similar group applied for registration in Hackney then it would be judged on its merits and not as a special case.



# NO NUCLEAR POWER IN HACKNEY-OR ANYWHERE ELSE!



## Council to buy cemetery

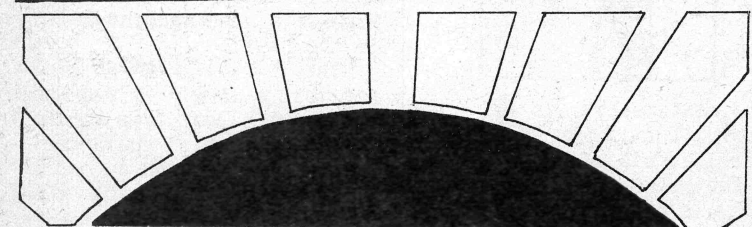
It is heartening to know that Hackney Borough Council is in the process of purchasing the 31 acre Abney Park Cemetery at Stoke Newington. The neglected state of the cemetery can hardly have gone unnoticed. But what exactly should be done with the cemetery and the imposing spired chapel?

In October's HPP we reported that the Hackney Friends of the Earth were endeavouring to persuade the Council to turn the cemetery into a nature reserve.

The Save Abney Park Cemetery Committee, an elected group of local residents and relatives of those buried in the cemetery, are concerned with this very question. Already the committee has successfully campaigned for the cemetery to be taken into public ownership and is now preparing a plan of action which it hopes to present to the Council in the near future.

At the moment the Committee is very keen to sound local opinion. Should the site and the building simply be restored to their former glory or should they be put to some community use? When there are so few real amenities, this empty chapel could perhaps become a community centre. It may seem a bizarre site for one but it is worthy of consideration. The important point is - what do the local residents think? The Committee welcomes any opinions and practical proposals and these should be sent to Edward Rees at 134 Listria Park, N.16.

The Committee is keen to organise a group of volunteers to keep the cemetery tidy until its future has been decided. Anyone interested in participating should contact Sylvia Farrell of 58 John Kennedy Court, N.1.



## Ecology centre

This new bookshop at 83 Blackstock Road specialises in literature on environmental issues, that is, on nuclear and renewable energy, pollution, nature and wild-life, organic gardening and farming, wholefood cookery as well as books on self-sufficiency and crafts.

The shop keeps publications from environmental pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth and SERA (Socialist Environment and Resources Association). "Sun Power" in particular aims at supporting the Anti-Nuclear movement in its struggle against the atomic menace. The shop also keeps a stock of crafts from

the Third World and wants to encourage local people who produce crafts to sell their products at "Sun Power". A small selection of wholefoods is also for sale.

In the long run, Sun Power wants to become a centre for the ecology movement in the Hackney and Islington areas. They want to build up a reference section where people can get the information they want without necessarily buying books.

The success of the shop as a centre will depend largely on the measure of activities carried on by the various local groups.

£600 million of your taxpayers money to expand Windscale, up to half of what you pay for electricity wasted as the heat and power you are trying to 'use' goes through the walls (literally)...no wonder Hackney needs an Anti-Nuclear Group.

Fortunately there is now one on your doorstep. Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group has now been going just over one month. It's still feeling its way, but it's growing and it exists because the continuing development of Nuclear Power in Britain affects everyone in Hackney, (even if you don't consume any electricity!)

The vast amount of public money that the government now definitely proposes to put into a reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria, is of particular insult to poor areas of high unemployment - like around here. This money could be much better used in creating less capital-intensive employment in Hackney and other inner city areas.

### GREAT MYTH

That we need nuclear power at all to keep our homes and factories running is one of the great myths that governments so often like to try

and fool people with. At the moment this country has the capacity to produce far more electricity than we actually 'use'. Even so, much of what is 'used' is actually wasted - because our buildings are so badly insulated the heat we produce escapes. So, if we put this to rights, we could use less power and save valuable resources.

The job of insulating our homes and factories would create work for thousands of people; it could even be financially viable. Yet so far the government has hardly bothered to do anything like this and continues to put your money into Nuclear Power. And all this is against the 'Nukes' before we even begin to consider the unparalleled potential dangers of this energy source.

Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group exists to consider ways in which people in the area can actively participate in the fight against Nuclear Power. Practically we can all try and insulate our own homes (this is something that soon pays for itself) to cut our electricity consumption. Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group are going to consider operating an Insulation scheme of the kind pioneered by Friends of the Earth and other groups.

### DIRECT ACTION

The group is also keen to support the battle against

Nuclear Power in direct ways. At the time of going to press a group of committed 'Anti-Nukers' are occupying a site at Torness in Scotland, where the first preparations are being made to build a new Nuclear Power station. While it is difficult for people in

Hackney to go to Scotland to support this non-violent direct action we can all help by donating money to help keep the campaign going. Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group will be keeping in touch with opposition to the 'Nukes' all over the country and one of their main aims is to inform people locally of the developments on the Nuclear scene.

This Labour government has shown where it stands on Nuclear Power, (and the Tories have supported them). Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group, bored with the predictable foregone conclusions of the so-called 'debate' do not agree, and would be glad to hear from anyone else who's thinking along the same lines.

The next meeting is on Thursday 7th December at Centerprise 136, Kingsland High Street, E.8. For any additional information contact Simon on 01 249 3008.

For information on the latest situation at Torness, or offers of help, phone Greenpeace on 01 387 5370.

ANN TINUCLEAR.

## STAMFORD HILL GLC TENANTS SLAM REPAIR METHODS

Stamford Hill Estate is typical of the older type of GLC property: brick buildings with a high density of elderly people and families with young children. The buildings are solid-looking but the surface hides a multitude of structural defects due to age and general neglect.

The buildings are old and in need of reconstruction, but as a result of present GLC policy, the tenants of today's GLC property are being foisted off with a piecemeal and shoddy facelift for their flats. Even more disturbing is the GLC's inhumane and heartless programme of repair work and modernisation which will upset the home lives of tenants for some considerable time to come.

What is happening on Stamford Hill Estate is typical of what has happened or is about to happen on other inter-war estates.

### CALCULATED DISRUPTION

At the end of October, contractors employed by the GLC were sent to one of the

blocks on the Estate (Quantock House) and proceeded, without warning to tenants, to let loose on the surface of the building with jack hammers and pneumatic drills. Inside the flats, conversation or any type of home life was impossible; lumps of concrete were falling into the balconies - not just the odd piece, but enough to cover a landing to a depth of eight inches after a few hours' work.

Night workers, mothers with young children, pensioners etc all suffered as a result of the disturbance. Phone enquiries to the local GLC housing office met with brusque statements to the effect that tenants should mind their own business.

### SICK BABY

When an Environmental Health Inspector was called in by a tenant who was desperately worried about the safety of her sick baby in the face of the noise and the dirt, he declared that

the work constituted a breach of the Environmental Health Regulations regarding noise and safety. In the subsequent week a notice banning this and other similar work was served on the GLC by Hackney Environmental Health.

Negotiations with the GLC had until this proved fruitless and only direct action by the tenants stopped the work until the notice was served. The tenants of the Estate are adamant that they are not prepared to live on a building site with all the accompanying dirt, noise and danger and insist on being rehoused.

Talks with the GLC have continued over the last few weeks but with little success. For the tenants the issue is straightforward: the GLC has an obligation to its tenants to rehouse them in decent accommodation and to do the work that is needed in a proper and professional way. Surely this is not too much to ask?



# MEMORIES OF 'THE ISLAND'

## A HISTORY OF THE BURIED STREETS

If you are remotely curious about Hackney's past you should find something of interest in "The Island". That is whether it's the detailed historical account in the first chapter of the location and development of the area or the subsequent chapters, intimate memories of the Island's ex-inhabitants.

The Island which has now been demolished to make way for the Landfield St. Estate, and once named "Navvies Island" was a group of "artisans' dwellings" built between 1869 and 1871. From historical evidence it seems likely that the houses - three up and three down - were originally intended for the navvies building the Liverpool Street-Enfield railway line. The whole area was part of a Lord Amherst's estate, whose bowler-hatted rent-collector still figures in memories of the 1920's.

### SOCIAL LIFE

The social events of The Island - the outings to Epping Forest, the street parties and of course evenings round at the local Rendlesham Arms were some of the reasons why people would return there for years after they had moved away. The Island had its own school, Benthall Road School, its shops, Baptist mission, midwife and even its own sayings. What stands out most strikingly from all the autobiographies of the Islanders is the insularity of the community and the close support they offered one another in all things domestic and parochial. Everyone always rallied round their neighbours if they needed help because of births, deaths, illnesses and other disasters. Collections would be made for the suffering and sympathy was

ample too. "People on the Island did stick together more than in other places I have lived. They would borrow a lot. Often they couldn't pay it back but Islanders would lend it anyway." (Extract from the book) There was a lot of unemployment and poverty; more than one married woman recalls how she and her husband used to walk a lot while they were courting; "we couldn't afford to do anything else".

### MEMORIES

The memories build up a strong sense of the particular character of The Island and make this a unique history but on the other hand there are also accounts where many Londoners will recognise their own experiences - the difficulty of finding work, the long treks to apply for Relief, and in some cases near starvation conditions in the home, overcrowded households, disease and alcoholism.

### PEOPLE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

"The Island" has been compiled by the "People's Autobiography of Hackney". The same group has brought out several individual autobiographies which have been published by Centerprise but this is their first community-type autobiography. They have aimed to draw on people's memories of their life in the community rather than their individual experiences. Mr Turner recalling the turn of the century remembers how quiet it was on a Sunday when all the children in his family were dressed in Norfolk suits and put on their best behaviour although "in winter months when the cold wind was blowing you'd get a lump of brown paper and stick that on your chest". And Mrs Priest regrets leaving her



Shortly before the bulldozers moved in - the old Rendlesham Arms and neighbouring houses boarded up.

home on the Island for a brand new flat *plus* bathroom when she was quite happy with the sink in the kitchen - "As if I'd never had a wash!" Inevitably the personal family details have crept in, particularly in the always vivid memories of childhood but I feel these only improve the intricate colourful picture of local life that an objective historian could never achieve.

### RESPONSE

When the Autobiography Group launched a search for contributors the response from ex-Islanders was much greater than they'd ever imagined it

would be. This required more than the normal editing; instead many hours of discussion were held before a decision was reached as how to relate factual documentary evidence to the letters and tape recordings of the Islanders. The Group has succeeded in making this experiment work well. You need to read the whole book before you can see how the chronologically ordered accounts overlap and follow each other up to make an effective history, but that is something that we hope we will get used to doing if this method of biography catches on.

And Centerprise scores again at providing local people with a medium for their own words and memories. If only more local publishing projects existed, we might still be able to revolutionise the bookshelves of England's libraries and bookshops!

The book is illustrated with photography of the area and the contributors to the book. Publication is just before Christmas and for the first four weeks, the book will only be sold at Centerprise and will cost 80p for this period. After that it will be available from other booksellers at £1.20.

## ROUGH DEAL FOR THE UNDER 18s

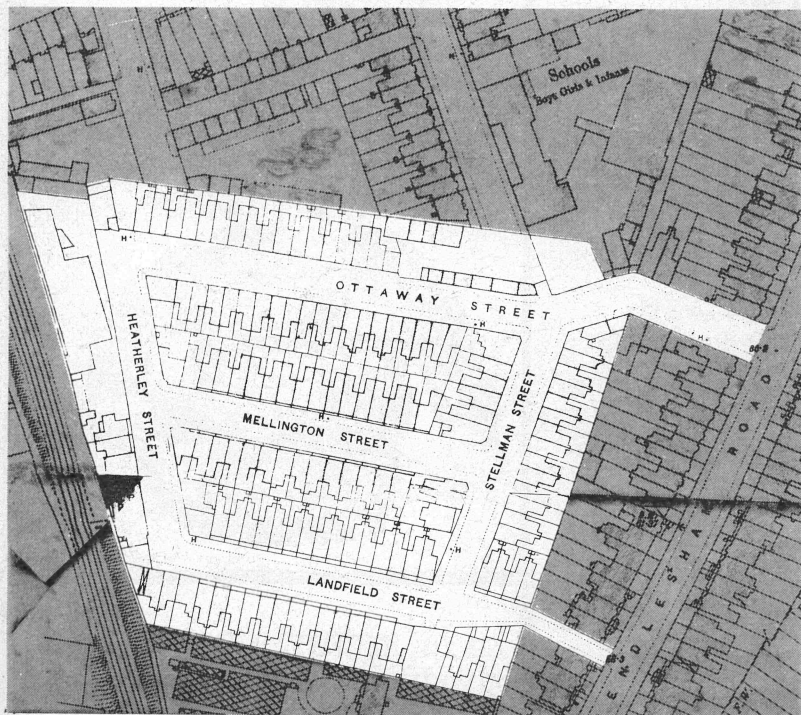
Jim Callaghan has promised that by Easter 1979 all school leavers will have had the opportunity of full-time education, or a youth opportunity scheme. This could be more of a threat than a promise though, as young people are very reluctant to work for £20.55 which is offered on Youth Opportunity Schemes. They are also offered some training on the schemes but leaving aside the reasonably successful schemes like Hackney Toy Workshop and the Vehicle Repair Workshop in Camden, young people are reluctant to take up places on the scheme. In Central London schemes, having been approved, have places for 246 young people, and only a mere 21 of these have been taken up.

This lack of take-up of youth opportunities places has been a problem for schemes throughout the country, and as a result at a meeting of all the local authorities in the country, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Birmingham Corporation suggested that if young people are offered a place on a youth opportunity scheme and turn it down, they should have their social security money withdrawn. A recent government paper circulated to Citizens Advice Bureaux for their comments also supports this persecution of the young unemployed by suggested that school-leavers should not be eligible for social security from the day they leave school until the first day of the next

term. This could mean that someone leaving school in May would not be eligible for social security until 1 September, a period of four months with no money to live on.

Clearly the purpose of both these proposals is to force kids to take jobs which they would have otherwise rejected; to keep a large pool of desperate school-leavers fighting for every available job and to keep the wage rate down.

It is the duty of all working and unemployed men and women in Hackney to fight these proposed cuts in the living standards of young people which would ultimately affect us all.



"The Island" - an area which used to exist between Rendlesham Road, Downs Road and the railway to Stoke Newington. The new "Landfield Estate" serves as a reminder of what used to be.



# CHRISTMAS HACKNEY

DECEMBER 1978

# GAS BAG

Doctor, doctor, I've  
only got 59 seconds  
to live!  
Wait a minute, man!

## JOKES

The teacher asked the black boy to give her a sentence with the words "defence, defeat, and detail. A few seconds later, the boy said, "When de horse jump over defence, detail go before defeat."

Waiter, waiter-this coffee tastes like mud!  
That's because its just been ground, sir.

A report from a secretary to the boss: 50% said they stirred tea with their left hand, 49% said they stirred tea with their right hand, and 1% said they stirred tea with a spoon."

A FINGER FROM  
A CLOUD



Hello, doctor Sawbones speaking.  
Oh, hello doctor. My wife's just broken her jaw. Could you come over in, say, three or four weeks time?

ha! ha! ha!  
These jokes  
are so  
funny.



Personally, I think anyone who goes to a psychiatrist needs his head examined...

Here is the result of the sheepdog trials; all the sheepdogs were found not-guilty.



L/After News isn't a newspaper, or a magazine. It doesn't rally National Front support, it doesn't have exclusive reports or interviews with John Travolta, and it doesn't have a page three...

L/After News is a comic in newspaper fashion with magazine-type articles. It is practically all light-hearted comedy, some of it set in a serious way. Regular articles include the Revolting Recipe by Fangy Craddock, the Batsman strip cartoon, a political report (Tax in Space), and a crossword.

L/After News (L/N) is eight foolscap-sized sheets long, costs 5p and sells around 60 copies per edition. We are so far up to edition No. 00007. It rarely makes a profit, but then it's not meant to. It is privately-run, written by a kid of

twelve, with reports here and there from friends. It says what it likes, though sometimes it doesn't like what it says... L/N was originally produced for relatives, but as it spread its talons of influence, production increased (as did the price!)

L/N still has a long way to go, and still needs to be improved upon. You can help it by either sending £1,000,000 in cash to the editor, or alternatively writing or drawing anything for it-providing that it is in some way light-hearted or amusing. Jokes are also accepted but GOOD ones only!

Send your million pounds to:

36, Broadway Market  
London Fields  
Hackney E.8

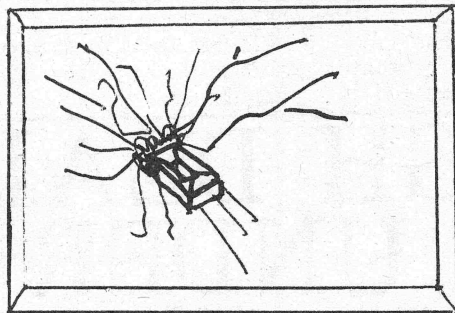
## VIOLENCE

BY KON JELLY

Some of the public think that a lot of violence stems from violent programmes, such as Starskey and Hutch, the Sweeney and The Professionals. The most violent of these are Target and the Sweeney. But the reason that these programmes can't be the cause of violence is that kids and teenagers are rarely in to watch such programmes. Kids from my school say they go home, get changed and go out with their friends. A friend of mine is always ringing on my bell and asking me if I want to come out and play. The only one of the group mentioned that he watches The Professionals, because I'm not in and he's not allowed out anyway.

## VANDALISM

BY SIR LEE JAMES



Vandalism is a thing which goes on all over the country. Why? Because vandals get kicks out of it. HOW TO BE A VANDAL.

### LESSON ONE

You ask somebody where they live if you do not like them and if they tell you approximately a week after they have told you, you bung a ruddy great brick through the ruddy window, you must make sure that you break the ruddy thing

### Film Review DEATH ON THE NILE

Directed by John Guillermin with David Niven, Peter Ustinov and Bette Davis, Agatha Christie's 'Death on the Nile' is a whodunnit styled film based in Egypt in the 1930's. The 140-minute film combines comedy, action, romance and nostalgia to produce a fairly fast-moving, witty detective story with many unexpected twists in the tale. Fabulous locations include the Sphinx, and a trip down the glittering Nile in a steam-powered paddleboat. A striking point of 'Death on the Nile' is the way it portrays its several murders, with plenty of blood and gore to be seen.

Overall, an enjoyable film, guaranteed to bring you to the edge of your seat more than once...



This HACKNEY GAS BAG was produced by,  
Josh Dalby.  
Jon Kelly.  
Lee James.  
Christopher Bryant.  
Janet Smith.



# information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.  
For the next issue, just send us your information by

FRIDAY 22nd DECEMBER

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

## Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

**HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8  
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

**TASK FORCE**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620  
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

**HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE**  
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

**HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**  
74 Downham Road N1.  
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm

**OFF CENTRE**  
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566  
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

**FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE**  
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.  
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.  
986 2233 (24 hours)  
985 0973 (office hours)  
986 9146

**FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS**  
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

**HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP**  
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM**  
East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5. Campaigns for advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

**HACKNEY GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

**HOMERTON GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

**HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION**  
c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

## Women

**HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN**  
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

**WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
1 Cazenove Road, N16.  
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

**RAPE CRISIS CENTRE**  
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP**  
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE**  
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

## Health

**CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**  
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.  
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

**HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY**  
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

**THE BIRTH CENTRE**  
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.  
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.  
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

**EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP**  
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

**STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP**  
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

## Community Centres

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
Bookshop and office hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.  
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.  
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.  
FACILITIES:  
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.  
ADVICE CENTRE:  
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.  
READING CENTRE:  
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.  
PUBLISHING PROJECT:  
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

**WALLY FOSTER CENTRE**  
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.  
Community Centre with many activities:  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.  
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:  
Every Monday at 7pm.  
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.  
See also ADVICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

**THE FACTORY**  
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.  
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.  
Contact them for further details.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.  
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome). "Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Contact them for further information.  
Also see ADVICE and Neighbourhood English Classes and Gingerbread under COMMUNITY GROUPS listings on this page.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4901.  
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.  
Many events take place in the theatre each month—see the EVENTS AND MEETINGS section. Also see ADVICE listing.

**LATIN AMERICA CENTRE**  
17 Hoxton Square, N1. Tel. 739 2910.  
Social and cultural centre for Latin Americans and British people interested in Latin America.

## Ecology

**HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**  
Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

**HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP**  
Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power. Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact Simon 249 3008.

**RECYCLED PAPER**  
High quality recycled papers (duplicating, printing, writing or card), personalised stationery and silk screen printing available from Regenesis, 32 Warwick Road, N 16. Tel. 249 8367.

## Meditation

**PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS IN HACKNEY**  
Simple, natural, effortless transcendental meditation technique realizes full creative potential. Introductory talks: 8pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 51 Downs Park Road, E8. Tel. 254 6280.

**ANANDA MARGA**  
For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm, at 1 Cazenove Road, N16. Everyone welcome.

## Workshops

**THE WORKSHOP**  
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.  
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

**COMET WORKSHOP**  
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.  
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.

## Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

**KINGSMEAD**  
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9.  
Tel. 985 3804.  
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

**SNAGS**  
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

**ALLEN ROAD**  
12 Allen Road, N16.  
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

**HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE**  
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.  
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).  
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU X**  
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.  
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

**HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY.** 245 Mare St, E8.  
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.  
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

**HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE**  
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.  
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

**HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU**  
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE**  
5 Stamford Hill, N16.  
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.  
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

**RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE**  
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.  
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.  
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see LABOUR PARTY under POLITICAL GROUPS listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?  
**EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE**  
Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

## Education

**SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
83 Eleanor Road, E8.  
Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

**ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

**ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES**  
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.  
Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.  
June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.  
Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.  
Cal Weatherald, Highbury Manor AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.  
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

**HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME**  
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N.16 on Thursday mornings.



## Political Groups

**HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON**  
Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP, also runs advice service every other Sunday at 11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.  
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.  
**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

**HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm, every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bletchley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Margaret Morgan on 1st and 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.  
**HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

**HACKNEY CENTRAL**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm, every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Cljnton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.  
**HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

**HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE**  
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.

**HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY**  
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.

**HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP**  
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.  
For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY**  
Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

**LONDON WORKERS GROUP**  
For independent militants, working anarchists, and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

**ANARCHY COLLECTIVE**  
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

**LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP**  
c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION**  
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING**  
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China.

**HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM**  
All-party anti-racialist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

**SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN HACKNEY GROUP**  
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

**HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT**  
Campaigns on third world issues, especially against the Arms Trade to these countries.

## NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

Hackney Branch meets on a Tuesday night at Centerprise, 8pm. Information from NCP, 395 Walworth Road, SE17 2AW.

## Men

**DALSTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

**EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

**EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE**  
19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

## Music and Broadcasts

**ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP**  
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free. The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

**HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO**  
Programme schedule:  
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show  
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show  
Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows  
5pm-7pm Soul Show  
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement (local and international news, "In Bed with a Book", funnies and music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

## Children

**HACKNEY UNDER FIVES**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Midge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm. in Centerprise.

**HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

**CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE**  
112b Forest Road E8.  
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

## TOY LIBRARY

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N.16. A new toy library for all children under 5. Play facilities, tea. Every Tuesday 2-3.30pm. Contact Sue Corlett 806 1968.

## Transport

**HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE**  
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

**HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP**  
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559

## Gays

**EAST LONDON FAGGOTS**  
Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

**GAY SWITCHBOARD**  
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

**EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)**  
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

**GEMMA**  
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX..

## Food

**TOWARDS JUPITER**  
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394  
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

**FOOD FOR ALL**  
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.  
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road.

## small ads

For sale: Morris Minor 1000, 1962, no MOT, no engine. Good wheels and tyres. Available very cheap as parts, or complete. Offers to Martin, tel 254 1306.

For sale: K reg Honda 90, taxed, MOT. Electrical fault, hence sale. Very cheap. Offers to Ann, tel 254 1306.

## events

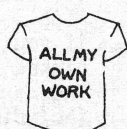
Hackney Socialist Challenge Supporters Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Britannia, Mare St. Next meeting 7 December: discussion on Hackney Girl's Project. Further details from Hackney SC, c/o PO Box 50, London N.1. or from Martin, 359 8180 (day).

Saturday 2 December. Centerprise, 8pm. "It's a NAC out" - short play about woman seeking an abortion. Stories, poetry, disco, food, bring drink. Women only - benefit for Hackney Abortion Campaign. 80p (40p unwaged).

Friday 8 December. Centerprise. 7.30pm. "Divide and Rule - Never". New anti-racist film from Newsreel Collective.

Friday 15 December. Centerprise. 7.30pm. Christmas Entertainment. Music Hall plus seasonal fare. Entry by ticket - collect yours from the coffee bar.

**IGNITION POETRY GROUP.**  
Meets every Sunday at 2.30pm. 155 Hassett Road, E9.





# DALSTON - BROAD STREET LINE THREATENED

British Railways - they give with one hand and take away with the other! Having announced plans already to introduce passenger services between Highbury and Islington and Stratford, serving Dalston and Hackney, they are now planning to axe the Dalston Junction to Broad Street "City Link".

British Rail intend to re-develop the Liverpool Street and Broad Street stations complex, and want not a new station at Broad Street, but offices. BR have said they could re-route trains from Dalston to Liverpool Street via London Fields and Bethnal Green. However, this seems impractical as this line is already heavily used and trains entering Liverpool Street from this direction are already frequently subject to delay, particularly at peak times. This less direct route would more than double the time it currently takes to get from Dalston into the city by train.

The North London Line Committee have pointed out that to link the North London Line (Highbury and Islington to Stratford and North Woolwich) with the existing Liverpool Street to Cambridge Line would cost over £4 million. Hackney would therefore be left with an even more inadequate 'public' transport system than it has at the moment.

Hackney Council has pledged its opposition to the Line's closure and currently the Hackney Public Transport Action Committee is actively working against BR's plans. They are trying to get a meeting, along with the North London Line Committee, with BR to put their view and seek a solution. While others await the outcome of an inquiry into the future of Liverpool Street Station Hackney Public Transport Action Committee (HPTAC) believe that the fate of the line does not necessarily depend upon this inquiry.

As HPTAC's chairperson Roger Lansdown pointed out to HPP: "Even if it was decided to abolish Broad Street Station trains could be re-routed into Liverpool Street, if that station was expanded." He added: "Liverpool Street /Broad Street is in any case a vital link into the tube system, just like Victoria, London Bridge or other main stations, and as such is an essential link for Hackney and Dalston with the whole of London."

HPTAC also want to see a station re-opened at Shoreditch on the "City-Link", at the junction of Kingsland Road and Old Street, on the 'viaduct'. Such a station, according to the North London Line Committee, would provide another 700,000 passenger

trips a year for BR. HPTAC also envisage a station on the line for neglected Haggerston.

## RIDLEY ROAD WRANGLE REMAINS

Meanwhile, the battle to prevent BR opening a new station at 36-40 Ridley Road, in the middle of the market, goes on. BR want a station here to serve Dalston on the North London Line extension to North Woolwich, planned to start next year

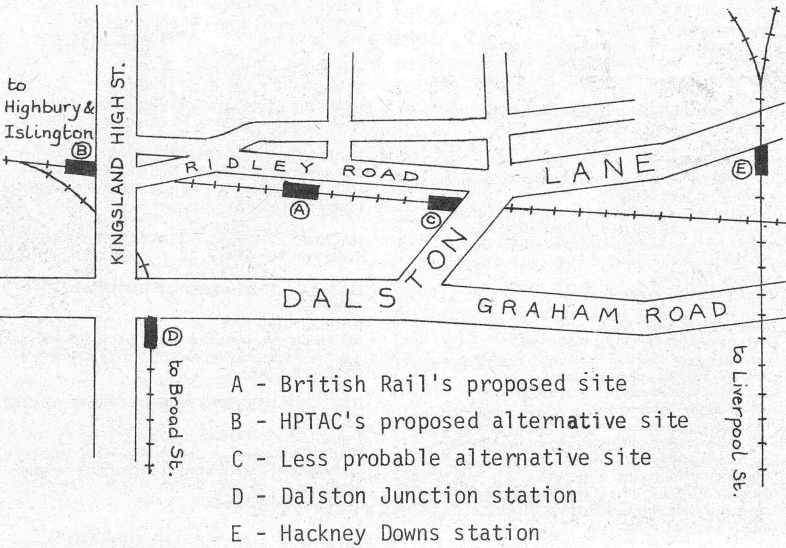
Local opposition groups propose the station should be sited on the Kingsland High Street, both to avoid disrupting the market and to provide better links with other local transport.

At the Hackney Council meeting of 22 November representatives of the Ridley Road market traders presented a petition of 6,000 signatures to the Council protesting at the proposed new station site. They are not opposed to a new station for Dalston, but do not want the Ridley

Road market threatened by British Rail. The market traders want to add power to the Council's elbow in opposing the proposed Ridley Road station site and get the Council to ask both the GLC and Dockland Development planners to persuade BR to rethink and consult with local people in Dalston. The total lack of negotiation by British rail so far has been one of the protestors' main criticisms.

In any case, the new Dalston station, and also the proposed one at Hackney on Mare Street, would not open until 1980, a year after services should have begun between the existing North London Line, from Richmond via Highbury and Islington, to North Woolwich.

BR are currently proposing an approximately 30-minute service. This is considered inadequate by Hackney Public Transport Action Committee who want at least three times an hour with more at peak times in order to attract enough passengers to make the service viable. The interchange at Highbury and Islington with the Victoria Line and BR's Moorgate to Hertford Line is thought to be of particular benefit to Hackney's residents, providing an additional link with the West End.



## SUS

continued from p.1.

of action by her representatives and the local M.P.

The representative from the J.C.W.I. at the Conference said that there were many examples of the police behaving like this in Hackney. Indeed, he said that the number of arrests in Hackney under the immigration act were grossly out of proportion to other London Boroughs. In Hackney the police indulge in "fishing expeditions" in contravention of the Metropolitan Police guidelines. A fishing expedition consists of questioning many immigrants at one time, many, if not all, of whom have a perfect right to be in this country. These fishing expeditions result in a great deal of unjustified harassment of the immigrant community.

The Immigration Act is being used more and more to harass the black community, in 1975 there were 715 arrests under the Act and by 1977 there were 1396 arrests.

Sometimes a combination of 'Sus' and Immigration laws are used to persecute people. One West Indian woman at the conference told the story of her son, who two days previously had been stopped by the police on his way to college who asked him what

was in his pockets, where he was going and why he was up so early.

More significantly they asked him "What island do you come from?", and after he had answered all these questions, they demanded that he produce his passport. The student said that he didn't carry his passport to college all the time and the police then said that if he didn't produce his passport they would arrest him. He was then arrested and held for 24 hours.

After the incident a complaint was lodged, and this resulted

in a Police Superintendent coming round and trying to placate the family to prevent them making a big issue of it.

There were also reports at the conference from some teachers present who complained about police behaviour in schools. Cases were described of police arriving and without consulting the Headteacher or parents, taking particular children out of class to the police station for questioning.

There were many stories of harassment of black youths by the police which came out at the conference, and obviously

this is only the very tip of the iceberg. Hackney Council for Racial Equality are trying to collect as many incidents of police harassment as possible.

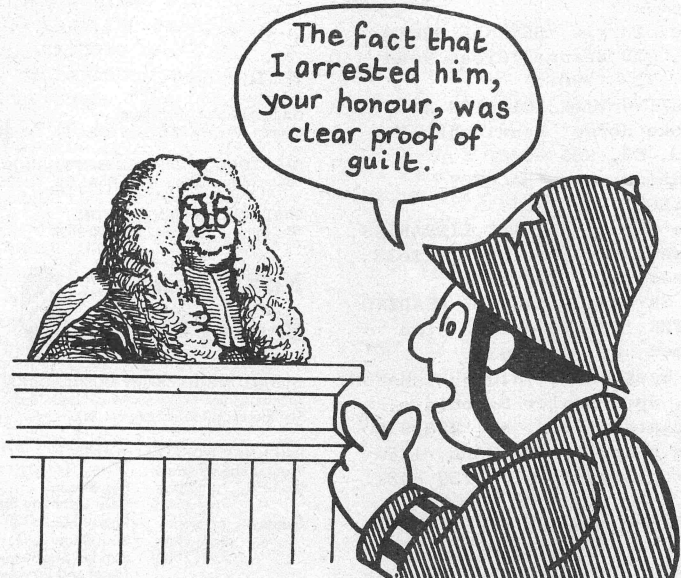
The conference came up with several resolutions. The first and most general call was for the repeal of the Immigration Laws and all other laws used particularly against black people. Radical action by the Home Secretary was called for in the form of the setting up of an enquiry into the problems between the judiciary, police and ethnic minorities.

More particularly for Hackney, the Council for Racial Equality was asked to provide facilities to collect and co-ordinate information on black harassment in Hackney.

There were also calls for the setting up of a fund to carry out this research and a follow-up conference.

Much of the information for this article comes from a pamphlet "Law and Race Relations" available from HCRE, 247 Mare Street, E8.

The NCCL has published a bustcard on the subject of 'sus', listing your rights if you are likely to be picked up on this charge. They are available for 10p including postage from NCCL, 186 Kings Cross Road, London WC1. (Prices for bulk rates on request.)



## Solution to HPP Crossword No 4

- ACROSS
- Quarter staff 9. Loser
  - Caribou 11. Emu
  - Sort 13. Door mat
  - Cheese 16. Repose
  - Numbing 21. Spot 22. Rub
  - Enforce 25. Event
  - Thin disguise
- DOWN
- Upsurge 3. Rare
  - Escudo 5. Scrooge
  - Album 7. Fourth estate
  - Close contest 15. Stirred
  - Oppress 18. Agrees
  - Mufti 23. Beau

Answer all your Christmas present problems: buy your friends a seasonal sub to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS! For just £2 all next year's issues will drop onto your doormat, absolutely promptly at the beginning of each month. No more queues, no more uncertainty and you're keeping the poor old paper going!

What more could you give - or receive?

Please send me a year's subscription to HPP. I enclose a cheque/PO for £2 made out to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

Send to HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High St, E8

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_











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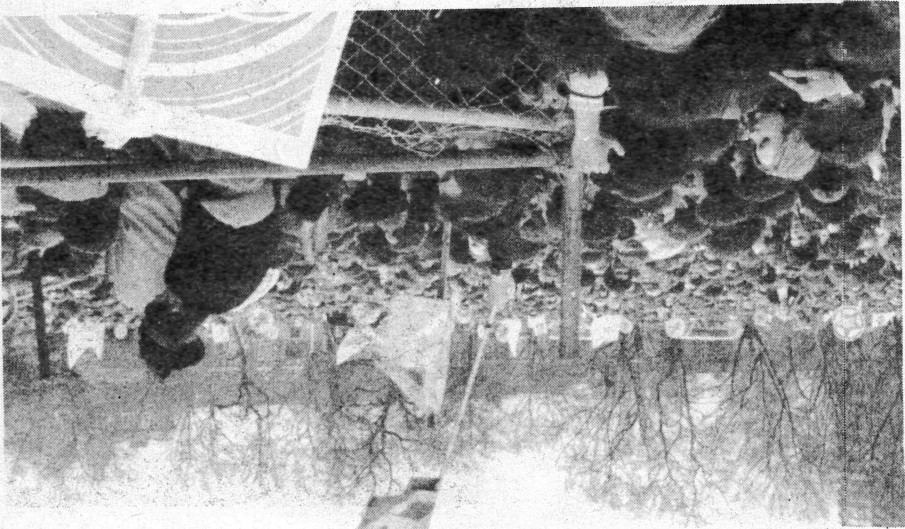
In November 1978 two Hackney journalists and an ex-soldier went free after a trial which cost the taxpayer £250,000.



November

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In the largest demonstration since the 1930s, 80,000 people marched last year to a carnival in Victoria Park to show their opposition to the National Front.



May

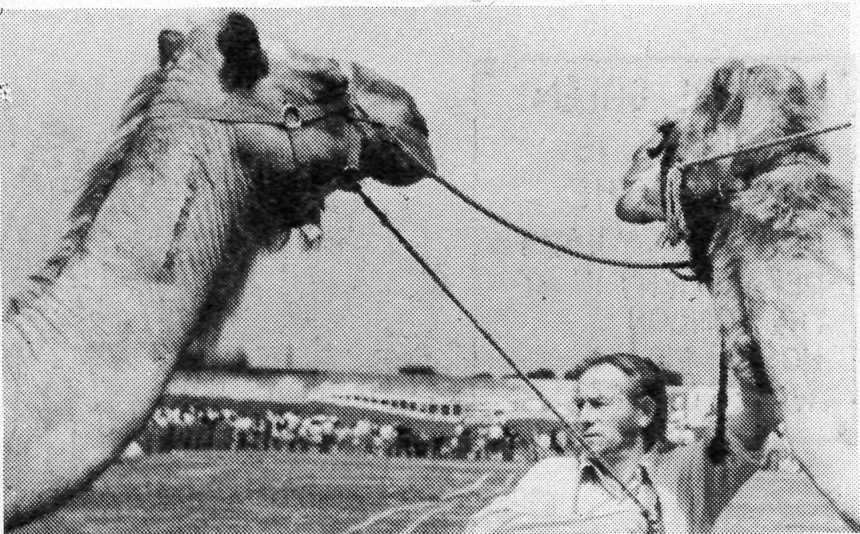
January



There are still 4,000 empty properties in Hackney. Voluntary bodies like Hackney Community Housing can only hope to tackle one per cent of these per year.

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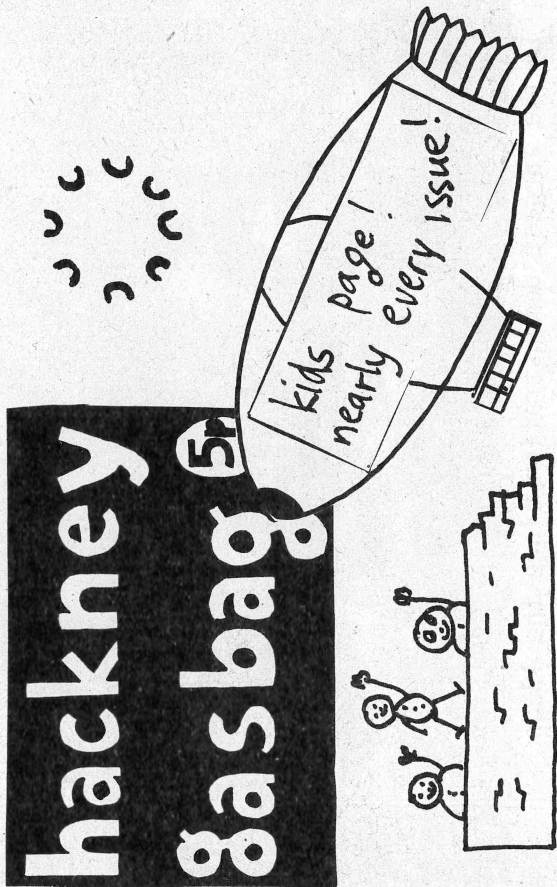
July



Hackney's answer to the Highland Games, the Hackney Marsh Fun Festival is held every summer in Daubeney Fields.

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Hackney Gasbag, which is now one year old, is produced by young people in Hackney and published as a supplement to HPP.

## August

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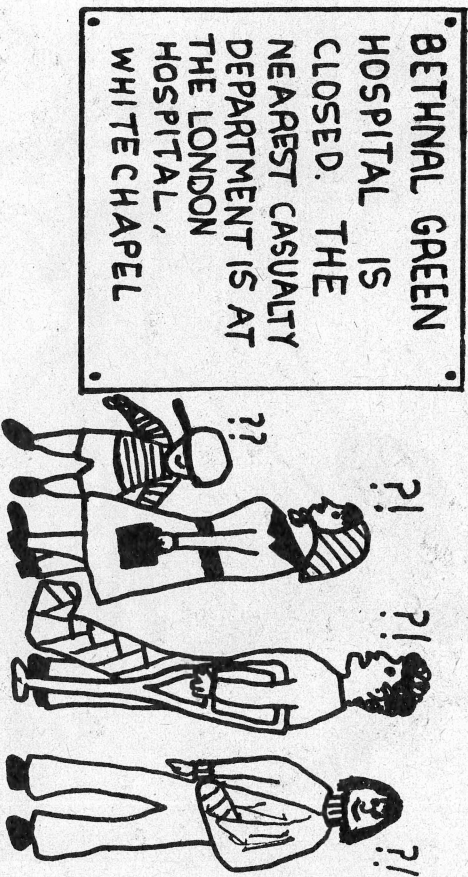


Hackney's public transport suffered last year with two bus routes, the 97 and the 256, being axed. Hackney's rail link with Broad Street is threatened.

## February

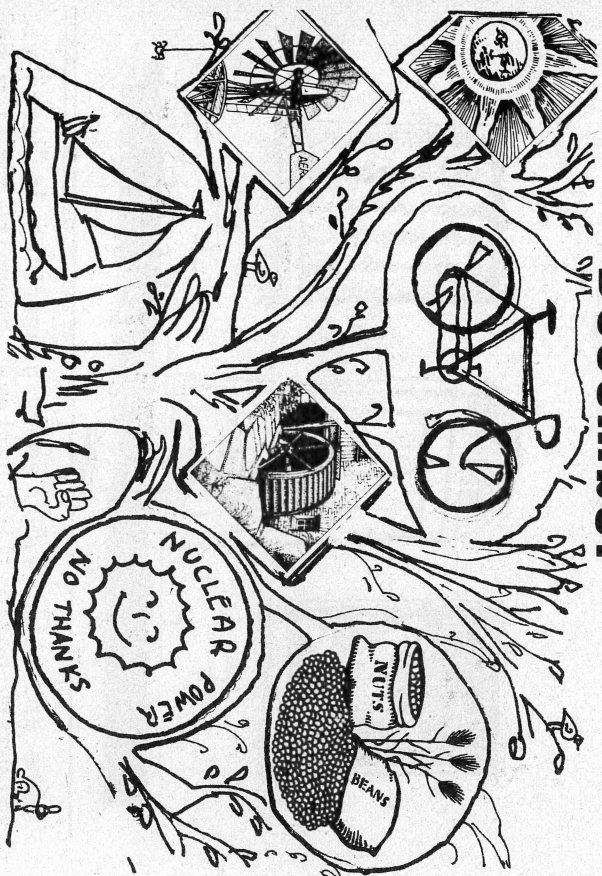
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## June



Local hospitals were still under attack last year. The struggle to save Bethnal Green Hospital continues.

## December



Demand for allotment space is far more than that available: Hackney Friends of the Earth are campaigning for more. If there isn't a group campaigning for what you want - form it. Happy New Year!

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24	25 <i>Christmas day</i>	26 <i>Boxing day</i>	27	28	29	30